



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

***Raised Bill No. 5537***

LCO No. 1597

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) (a) (1) For taxable years  
2       commencing on or after January 1, 2002, there shall be allowed a credit  
3       against the tax imposed under chapter 229 of the general statutes to  
4       any resident individual in an amount equal to four per cent of the  
5       amount contributed up to ten thousand dollars of contributions during  
6       such taxable year by such individual to a Connecticut higher education  
7       trust account established for the purpose of meeting qualified higher  
8       education expenses of the account, as defined in section 3-22f of the  
9       general statutes.

10       (A) For taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2002, but  
11       prior to January 1, 2003, in the case of any such taxpayer who files  
12       under the federal income tax for such taxable year as an unmarried  
13       individual whose Connecticut adjusted gross income exceeds fifty-five  
14       thousand five hundred dollars, the amount of the credit shall be  
15       reduced by ten per cent for each ten thousand dollars, or fraction  
16       thereof, by which the taxpayer's Connecticut adjusted gross income  
17       exceeds said amount.

18 (B) For taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2003, but  
19 prior to January 1, 2004, in the case of any such taxpayer who files  
20 under the federal income tax for such taxable year as an unmarried  
21 individual whose Connecticut adjusted gross income exceeds fifty-six  
22 thousand five hundred dollars, the amount of the credit shall be  
23 reduced by ten per cent for each ten thousand dollars, or fraction  
24 thereof, by which the taxpayer's Connecticut adjusted gross income  
25 exceeds said amount.

26 (C) For taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2004, but  
27 prior to January 1, 2005, in the case of any such taxpayer who files  
28 under the federal income tax for such taxable year as an unmarried  
29 individual whose Connecticut adjusted gross income exceeds fifty-  
30 eight thousand five hundred dollars, the amount of the credit shall be  
31 reduced by ten per cent for each ten thousand dollars, or fraction  
32 thereof, by which the taxpayer's Connecticut adjusted gross income  
33 exceeds said amount.

34 (D) For taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2005, but  
35 prior to January 1, 2006, in the of any such taxpayer who files under  
36 the federal income tax for such taxable year as an unmarried  
37 individual whose Connecticut adjusted gross income exceeds sixty  
38 thousand five hundred dollars, the amount of the credit shall be  
39 reduced by ten per cent for each ten thousand dollars, or fraction  
40 thereof, by which the taxpayer's Connecticut adjusted gross income  
41 exceeds said amount.

42 (E) For taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2006, but  
43 prior to January 1, 2007, in the case of any such taxpayer who files  
44 under the federal income tax for such taxable year as an unmarried  
45 individual whose Connecticut adjusted gross income exceeds sixty-  
46 two thousand five hundred dollars, the amount of the credit shall be  
47 reduced by ten per cent for each ten thousand dollars, or fraction  
48 thereof, by which the taxpayer's Connecticut adjusted gross income  
49 exceeds said amount.

50 (F) For taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2007, in the  
51 case of any such taxpayer who files under the federal income tax for  
52 such taxable year as an unmarried individual whose Connecticut  
53 adjusted gross income exceeds sixty-four thousand five hundred  
54 dollars, the amount of the credit shall be reduced by ten per cent for  
55 each ten thousand dollars, or fraction thereof, by which the taxpayer's  
56 Connecticut adjusted gross income exceeds said amount.

57 (2) In the case of any such taxpayer who files under the federal  
58 income tax for such taxable year as a married individual filing  
59 separately whose Connecticut adjusted gross income exceeds fifty  
60 thousand two hundred fifty dollars, the amount of the credit shall be  
61 reduced by ten per cent for each five thousand dollars, or fraction  
62 thereof, by which the taxpayer's Connecticut gross income exceeds  
63 said amount.

64 (3) In the case of a taxpayer who files under the federal income tax  
65 on such taxable year as a head of household whose Connecticut  
66 adjusted gross income exceeds seventy-eight thousand five hundred  
67 dollars, the amount of the credit shall be reduced by ten per cent of  
68 each ten thousand dollars or fraction thereof, by which the taxpayer's  
69 Connecticut adjusted gross income exceeds said amount.

70 (4) In the case of a taxpayer who files under the federal income tax  
71 for such taxable year as married individuals filing jointly whose  
72 Connecticut adjusted gross income exceeds one hundred thousand five  
73 hundred dollars, the amount of the credit shall be reduced by ten per  
74 cent for each ten thousand dollars, or fraction thereof, by which the  
75 taxpayer's Connecticut adjusted gross income exceeds said amount.

76 (b) The amount of credit allowed to any individual under this  
77 section shall not exceed the amount of tax due from such individual  
78 under chapter 229 of the general statutes with respect to such taxable  
79 year.

80 (c) If the State Treasurer makes a distribution to any individual who

81 has contributed to a Connecticut higher education trust account, the  
82 State Treasurer shall deduct and withhold an amount equal to four per  
83 cent of that portion of the distribution that represents the investment  
84 in the account and shall pay over that amount to the Commissioner of  
85 Revenue Services as a recapture of the credit under this section. If such  
86 contributing individual is able to establish, to the satisfaction of the  
87 commissioner, that no credit was previously claimed under this section  
88 by such contributing individual on account of such contribution, the  
89 commissioner shall refund the amount of such recaptured credit to  
90 such contributor.

91       Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2002*) (a) For purposes of this  
92 section, "state licensing agency" means any state agency, department,  
93 board or commission that is responsible for issuing licenses or  
94 certificates to practice or engage in a profession, occupation or trade.

95       (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, no state  
96 licensing agency shall renew a license or certificate if such licensing  
97 agency has been notified by the Connecticut Student Loan Foundation  
98 pursuant to this section that the applicant for such renewal is in default  
99 of a student loan made or guaranteed by the foundation, except as  
100 provided in subsection (d) of this section. The state licensing agency  
101 shall provide a person denied renewal of a license or certificate  
102 pursuant to this section the rights provided under state law and  
103 regulations relating to the licensure of such person's profession,  
104 occupation or trade.

105       (c) The Connecticut Student Loan Foundation shall (1) periodically  
106 identify persons in default on student loans made or guaranteed by the  
107 foundation, (2) subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this  
108 section, provide a list of such persons to each state licensing agency,  
109 and (3) in the case of a person in default who holds a license or  
110 certificate, notify such person, at the time the list is provided to the  
111 state licensing agency, that the license or certificate is subject to  
112 nonrenewal pursuant to this section.

113 (d) A person in default of a student loan made or guaranteed by the  
 114 Connecticut Student Loan Foundation may enter into an agreement  
 115 with the foundation for repayment of such loan. The foundation shall  
 116 provide such person with a certificate stating that such person has  
 117 entered into a repayment agreement that is acceptable to the  
 118 foundation and such person. A person who presents such certificate to  
 119 a state licensing agency shall not be denied renewal of a license or  
 120 certificate based on default of such loan unless such person fails to  
 121 make the payments required under the agreement. The foundation  
 122 shall not include such person's name on the list issued after such  
 123 agreement is entered into or on any subsequent list if such person  
 124 continues to make the payments required under such agreement. If a  
 125 person fails to make the payments required under the agreement, the  
 126 foundation may include the person's name on the list. Such person  
 127 may enter into another such repayment agreement and be issued  
 128 another such certificate for presentation to the state licensing agency.

129 (e) The Connecticut Student Loan Foundation shall provide written  
 130 notice of the provisions of this section to each person who receives a  
 131 loan made or guaranteed by the foundation.

132 (f) The commissioner of each state licensing agency participating in  
 133 the student loan repayment program described in this section and the  
 134 president of the Connecticut Student Loan Foundation shall enter an  
 135 agreement that shall include procedures for the foundation to (1)  
 136 notify the commissioner of a default and the amount of the default, (2)  
 137 reimburse the state licensing agency for any costs incurred by the state  
 138 licensing agency in carrying out the provisions of this section, and (3)  
 139 implement the provisions of this section.

140 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 10a-77 of the general statutes, as  
 141 amended by section 31 of public act 01-173, is repealed and the  
 142 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

143 (d) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition at any  
 144 of the regional community-technical colleges (1) for any dependent

145 child of a person whom the armed forces of the United States has  
146 declared to be missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war  
147 while serving in such armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child  
148 has been accepted for admission to such institution and is a resident of  
149 Connecticut at the time such child is accepted for admission to such  
150 institution, (2) for any veteran having served in time of war, as defined  
151 in subsection (a) of section 27-103, or who served in either a combat or  
152 combat support role in the invasion of Grenada, October 25, 1983, to  
153 December 15, 1983, the invasion of Panama, December 20, 1989, to  
154 January 31, 1990, or the peace-keeping mission in Lebanon, September  
155 29, 1982, to March 30, 1984, who has been accepted for admission to  
156 such institution and is a resident of Connecticut at the time such  
157 veteran is accepted for admission to such institution, (3) for any  
158 resident of Connecticut sixty-two years of age or older, provided, at  
159 the end of the regular registration period, there are enrolled in the  
160 course a sufficient number of students other than those persons  
161 eligible for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the course in  
162 which such person intends to enroll and there is space available in  
163 such course after accommodating all such students, (4) for any student  
164 attending the Connecticut State Police Academy who is enrolled in a  
165 law enforcement program at said academy offered in coordination  
166 with a regional community-technical college which accredits courses  
167 taken in such program, (5) for any active member of the Connecticut  
168 Army or Air National Guard who (A) is a resident of Connecticut, (B)  
169 has been certified by the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's  
170 designee as a member in good standing of the guard, and (C) is  
171 enrolled or accepted for admission to such institution on a full-time or  
172 part-time basis in an undergraduate degree-granting program, [and]  
173 (6) for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined in section  
174 7-294a, or a supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as  
175 defined in section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire company, (C)  
176 municipal employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in section 5-154,  
177 killed in the line of duty, and (7) for any professional employee of any  
178 publicly-funded constituent unit of higher education provided, at the

179 end of the regular registration period, there are enrolled in the course a  
 180 sufficient number of students other than those persons eligible for  
 181 waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the course in which such  
 182 person intends to enroll and there is space available in such course  
 183 after accommodating all such students. If any person who receives a  
 184 tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions of this subsection also  
 185 receives educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver  
 186 shall be reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement.  
 187 Veterans described in subdivision (2) of this subsection and members  
 188 of the National Guard described in subdivision (5) of this subsection  
 189 shall be given the same status as students not receiving tuition waivers  
 190 in registering for courses at regional community-technical colleges.

191 Sec. 4. Subsection (d) of section 10a-99 of the general statutes, as  
 192 amended by section 32 of public act 01-173, is repealed and the  
 193 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

194 (d) Said board shall waive the payment of tuition fees at the  
 195 Connecticut State University system (1) for any dependent child of a  
 196 person whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to be  
 197 missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in  
 198 such armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted  
 199 for admission to such institution and is a resident of Connecticut at the  
 200 time such child is accepted for admission to such institution, (2) for  
 201 any veteran having served in time of war, as defined in subsection (a)  
 202 of section 27-103, or who served in either a combat or combat support  
 203 role in the invasion of Grenada, October 25, 1983, to December 15,  
 204 1983, the invasion of Panama, December 20, 1989, to January 31, 1990,  
 205 or the peace-keeping mission in Lebanon, September 29, 1982, to  
 206 March 30, 1984, who has been accepted for admission to such  
 207 institution and is a resident of Connecticut at the time such veteran is  
 208 accepted for admission to such institution, (3) for any resident of  
 209 Connecticut sixty-two years of age or older who has been accepted for  
 210 admission to such institution, provided such person is enrolled in a  
 211 degree-granting program or, provided, at the end of the regular

212 registration period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient number  
213 of students other than those persons eligible for waivers pursuant to  
214 this subdivision to offer the course in which such person intends to  
215 enroll and there is space available in such course after accommodating  
216 all such students, (4) for any student attending the Connecticut Police  
217 Academy who is enrolled in a law enforcement program at said  
218 academy offered in coordination with the university which accredits  
219 courses taken in such program, (5) for any active member of the  
220 Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) is a resident of  
221 Connecticut, (B) has been certified by the Adjutant General or such  
222 Adjutant General's designee as a member in good standing of the  
223 guard, and (C) is enrolled or accepted for admission to such institution  
224 on a full-time or part-time basis in an undergraduate degree-granting  
225 program, [and] (6) for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as  
226 defined in section 7-294a, or a supernumerary or auxiliary police  
227 officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or a member of a  
228 volunteer fire company, (C) municipal employee, or (D) state  
229 employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, and (7)  
230 for any professional employee of any publicly-funded constituent unit  
231 of higher education provided, at the end of the regular registration  
232 period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient number of students  
233 other than those persons eligible for waivers pursuant to this  
234 subdivision to offer the course in which such person intends to enroll  
235 and there is space available in such course after accommodating all  
236 such students. If any person who receives a tuition waiver in  
237 accordance with the provisions of this subsection also receives  
238 educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver shall be  
239 reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement. Veterans  
240 described in subdivision (2) of this subsection and members of the  
241 National Guard described in subdivision (5) of this subsection shall be  
242 given the same status as students not receiving tuition waivers in  
243 registering for courses at Connecticut state universities.

244 Sec. 5. Subsection (e) of section 10a-105 of the general statutes, as  
245 amended by section 36 of public act 01-173, is repealed and the



246 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

247 (e) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition fees at  
 248 The University of Connecticut (1) for any dependent child of a person  
 249 whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to be missing  
 250 in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in such armed  
 251 forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for  
 252 admission to The University of Connecticut and is a resident of  
 253 Connecticut at the time such child is accepted for admission to such  
 254 institution, (2) for any veteran having served in time of war, as defined  
 255 in subsection (a) of section 27-103, or who served in either a combat or  
 256 combat support role in the invasion of Grenada, October 25, 1983, to  
 257 December 15, 1983, the invasion of Panama, December 20, 1989, to  
 258 January 31, 1990, or the peace-keeping mission in Lebanon, September  
 259 29, 1982, to March 30, 1984, who has been accepted for admission to  
 260 said institution and is a resident of Connecticut at the time such  
 261 veteran is accepted for admission to said institution, (3) for any  
 262 resident of Connecticut sixty-two years of age or older who has been  
 263 accepted for admission to said institution, provided such person is  
 264 enrolled in a degree-granting program or, provided, at the end of the  
 265 regular registration period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient  
 266 number of students other than those persons eligible for waivers  
 267 pursuant to this subdivision to offer the course in which such person  
 268 intends to enroll and there is space available in such course after  
 269 accommodating all such students, (4) for any active member of the  
 270 Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) is a resident of  
 271 Connecticut, (B) has been certified by the Adjutant General or such  
 272 Adjutant General's designee as a member in good standing of the  
 273 guard, and (C) is enrolled or accepted for admission to such institution  
 274 on a full-time or part-time basis in an undergraduate degree-granting  
 275 program, [and] (5) for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as  
 276 defined in section 7-294a, or a supernumerary or auxiliary police  
 277 officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or a member of a  
 278 volunteer fire company, (C) municipal employee, or (D) state  
 279 employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, and (6)

280 for any professional employee of any publicly-funded constituent unit  
 281 of higher education provided, at the end of the regular registration  
 282 period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient number of students  
 283 other than those persons eligible for waivers pursuant to this  
 284 subdivision to offer the course in which such person intends to enroll  
 285 and there is space available in such course after accommodating all  
 286 such students. If any person who receives a tuition waiver in  
 287 accordance with the provisions of this subsection also receives  
 288 educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver shall be  
 289 reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement. Veterans  
 290 described in subdivision (2) of this subsection and members of the  
 291 National Guard described in subdivision (4) of this subsection shall be  
 292 given the same status as students not receiving tuition waivers in  
 293 registering for courses at The University of Connecticut.

294 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 10a-22b of the general statutes is  
 295 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
 296 *1, 2002*):

297 (a) No person, board, association, partnership, corporation or other  
 298 entity shall offer occupational instruction unless such person, board,  
 299 association, partnership, corporation or other entity first receives from  
 300 the Commissioner of Higher Education a certificate authorizing the  
 301 occupational instruction to be offered. Except for initial authorizations,  
 302 the Commissioner of Higher Education shall accept institutional  
 303 accreditation by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States  
 304 Department of Education, in satisfaction of the requirements of this  
 305 section and section 10a-22d, including the evaluation and attendance  
 306 requirement, unless the commissioner finds reasonable cause not to  
 307 rely upon such accreditation.

308 Sec. 7. (*Effective July 1, 2002*) Notwithstanding the provisions of Part  
 309 IV of chapter 185 of the general statutes, Goodwin College located in  
 310 the town of East Hartford shall be eligible for participation in the  
 311 Connecticut Independent College Student Grant Program for the fiscal

312 year ending June 30, 2003, and each fiscal year thereafter, provided the  
313 college becomes a nonprofit institution by October 1, 2002.

314 Sec. 8. Section 10-145a of the general statutes is amended by adding  
315 subsection (f) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

316 (NEW) (f) On and after July 1, 2002, any candidate in a program of  
317 teacher preparation leading to a professional certification in education  
318 and seeking endorsement in elementary education shall complete a  
319 reading component consistent with the factors incorporated in the  
320 training curriculum set forth in subsection (a) of section 10-221l, as  
321 amended.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2002</i>

***Statement of Purpose:***

To institute a four per cent tax credit for contributions within a taxable year to the Connecticut higher education trust account of a designated beneficiary for up to ten thousand dollars a year. To encourage holders of Connecticut occupational licenses who are in default on student loans to enter repayment agreement with the Connecticut Student Loan Foundation. To allow tuition waivers to public institutions of higher education for professional employees of any publicly-funded constituent unit of higher education. To make a technical change to a statute concerning private occupational schools. To allow students at Goodwin College to receive assistance for higher education expenses. To require future elementary teachers to complete a reading component prior to certification.

***[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]***